

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 IO-13 /103 W  
-----037081 302122Z /62

R 300842Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0195  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2605

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR KN UR CH  
SUBJ: ROK VIEWS ON KIM IL-SONG VISIT TO MOSCOW

REF: SEOUL 2462

1. ROKG APPARENTLY SEEKS TO ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE AS FAR AS POSSIBLE IN COMMENTING ON THE PROSPECTIVE KIM IL-SONG VISIT TO MOSCOW, MUCH AS THEY HAVE DONE WITH REPORTS OF HUA'S PLANS TO VISIT PYONGYANG (REFTEL). SOME NEWSPAPERS AND INDIVIDUAL KOREANS, HOWEVER, SEEM TO TAKE MORE ANXIOUS VIEW.

2. ROK PRESS OVER PAST WEEKEND REPORTED KIM'S REPORTED INTENTION TO VISIT MOSCOW, REPLAYING JAPANESE PRESS ACCOUNTS ATTRIBUTED TO SCANDINAVIAN SOURCES. MAJOR SEOUL DAILIES HAVE MOSTLY REFRAINED FROM DIRECT COMMENT ON THE STORY, BUT THE OFFICIAL SEOUL SINMUN ON MARCH 28 CARRIED AN EDITORIAL ON PYONGYANG'S RELATIONS WITH BOTH PEKING AND MOSCOW, STRESSING KIM IL-SONG'S PURPORTED DIFFICULTIES IN DEALING  
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WITH HIS NEIGHBORING ALLIES, SUGGESTING THAT HIS MAIN INTEREST IN MOSCOW WILL BE IN OBTAINING ECONOMIC AID TO SAVE THE NORTH KOREAN ECONOMY FROM COLLAPSE, AND CONCLUDING THAT IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHICH OF THE TWO NEIGHBORS KIM WILL SIDE WITH. THE MINOR SINA ILBO TOOK A SIMILAR APPROACH, WHILE PUSAN'S KUKCHE SINBO SAW THE HUA AND KIM VISITS AS INDICATIONS OF PRC AND SOVIET

EFFORTS TO GAIN CONTROL OVER PYONGYANG.

3. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S NORTH KOREA DIVISION DIRECTOR, EXPRESSING HIS "PERSONAL VIEWS" TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER THE SAME DAY, MADE NO REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE SOVIET MILITARY SUPPORT FOR THE NORTH, SUGGESTING THAT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WILL BE KIM'S CHIEF INTEREST AND THAT FOR SOME TIME THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN SEEKING KIM'S SUPPORT IN THEIR RIVALRY WITH THE PRC.

4. ANOTHER MOFA OFFICIAL, HOWEVER, IN WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN A MORE GENUINELY UNOFFICIAL COMMENT, VOICED FEARS MORE TYPICAL OF TRADITIONAL KOREAN ANXIETIES, SPECULATING THAT KIM MAY HOPE TO OBTAIN SOVIET SUPPORT FOR NEW MILITARY ADVENTURES FROM MOSCOW, ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE LATTER'S RECENT SUCCESS IN ANGOLA AND OGADEN. HINTS OF THIS ATTITUDE ALSO APPEARED IN SOME PRESS COMMENTS. CHUNGANG ILBO, IN AN EDITORIAL ON CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY, REFERS IN PASSING TO INCREASED SOVIET SUPPORT FOR NORTH KOREA. THE PROVINCIAL CHONNAM ILBO (KWANGJU), WHILE DISCUSSING KIM'S TRIP CHIEFLY IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC NEEDS, CONCLUDES THAT PEKING IS UNLIKELY TO SUPPORT ANY MILITARY ADVENTURES BUT THAT "SOVIET PROVIDED TANKS LED THE KOREAN WAR".  
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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PEPR, OVIP, KN, UR, CH, (KIM IL-SONG)  
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